

# **PHENYLACETONITRILE**

**UN 2470** 

Shipping Name: Phenylacetonitrile, liquid

alpha-Tolunitrile Other Names:

Benzeneacetonitrile Benzyl cyanide

Benzyl nitrile Cyanotoluene



- WARNING! POISON! BREATHING THE VAPORS, SWALLOWING THE MATERIAL OR SKIN CONTACT CAN KILL YOU! CONVERTED TO CYANIDE IN THE BODY!
  - Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

### Hazards:

- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low
- Combustion products include toxic hydrogen cyanide

# **Awareness and Operational Level Training** Response:

- Stay upwind and uphill
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Isolate the area of release or fire and deny entry
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE
- Evacuate or shelter in place the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

# Description:

- Colorless, oily liquid
- Aromatic odor
- Sinks in water and is insoluble in water
- Flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas

## **Operational Level Training Response:**

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- Prevent material and runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release
- Use large amounts of water to disperse vapors contain runoff
- Consider the application of foam to large areas of spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

### FIRE:

- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts or use fog streams to extinguish burning liquid. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into liquid.
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (venting sound increases in volume and pitch, tank discolors or shows any signs of deforming), withdraw immediately to a secure location

#### First Aid:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Decontaminate the victim as follows:
  - ♦ Inhalation remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
  - Skin remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
  - Eye rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
  - Swallowed do not make the victim vomit
- Seek medical attention
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- Note to physician: can produce cyanide toxicity; if symptoms indicate, initial treatment includes the cyanide antidote kit

CAS: 140-29-4